

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4917

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IR, IN

SUBJECT: IRAN/INDIA COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

REF: NEW DELHI 17228

1. DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN (AEOI), VISITED INDIA DECEMBER 16-26, 1975 AT THE INVITATION OF DR. SETHNA, HEAD OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. THIS FOLLOWED A VISIT OF DR. SETHNA TO IRAN SOME WEEKS AGO.

2. KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL OF TEHRAN ON DECEMBER 29 REPORTED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXCHANGE OF SPECIALISTS. THE ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT INDIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS NOT DIRECTLY APPLICABLE TO IRAN BECAUSE THE TECHNOLOGY IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE AEOI. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT INDIA DOES OPERATE EXTENSIVE LABORATORY AND TRAINING FACILITIES, AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION

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ARE GREATEST IN THE AREA OF TRAINING AND "DISCUSSION ON

MUTUAL PROBLEMS." IT WAS FURTHER STATED THAT MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONTINUED IN THIRAN IN THE COMING MONTHS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE ARTICLE IS BASED ON A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE DR. ETEMAD GRANTED TO VIS NEWS OF BBC FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO THERAN. IN FACT, NO AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WAS SIGNED, ALTHOUGH SUCH AN ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT MAY WELL MATERIALIZE AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. DURING DR. ETEMAD'S TRIP TO INDIA (INVOLVING MAINLY VISITS TO ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTERS AT TROMBAY, TARAPUR, KALPAKKAN, AND HYDERABAD) DISCUSSIONS CENTERED MAINLY ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION. THESE ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE INCLUDED TRAINING, EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS, AND POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES. DR. ETEMAD AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH INDIA'S CAPABILITIES IN THE ELECTRONICS FIELD.

4. COMMENT: THIS DEVELOPMENT IS BUT THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CONTACTS IN WHICH IRAN HAS SOUGHT NON-US ASSISTANCE AND COLLABORATION IN ACQUIRING NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND HELP IN ESTABLISHING NUCLEAR ENERGY FACILITIES. GERMANY, FRANCE, SOUTH AFRICA, THE UK AND CANADA HAVE ALSO FIGURED IMPORTANTLY IN THIS EFFORT.
HELMS

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